Prior to attending the meeting, Utah team members met and discussed the formulation of a state action plan for potential future pandemics with a specific focus on communication, messaging, and the inclusion of professional society member representatives in statewide planning through the Utah Department of Health. The unique opportunity for Chapter members and DOH representatives to interact, led to the creation of a draft state action plan that aims to significantly increase the presence of clinicians in policy-making at the state level.

Conference speakers included Judith S. Palfrey, MD, AAP immediate past president; Joseph Bocchini, MD, Chair of the AAP Committee on Infectious Diseases; Georgina Peacock, MD, CDC representative; and Steven E. Krug, MD, Chair of the AAP Disaster Preparedness Advisory Council. In addition, each state discussed their action plans and some of the key “lessons learned” from the H1N1 pandemic. Dr. Bill Cosgrove, participated in a panel discussion entitled, Model Strategies: Strategic Communications and Systematic Messaging. This discussion included Utah’s plan to involve representatives from various professional organizations (i.e. AAP, AAFP, etc.) to vet and distribute key correspondence from the DOH to individual practitioners on the front lines.

A key focus of the meeting was the need to further include front line clinicians in policy making on the state and federal level. The two-day meeting presented some dynamic possibilities that the group hopes to be able to apply locally in a continued collaborative effort between Utah Department of Health representatives and Utah Chapter members. After the meeting concluded, the group formulated the final state action plan and submitted this to the DOH. Eventually, this document, along with the other state action plans will be available online along with other documents generated during the conference.

Department of Health representatives hope to continue collaborative efforts through the formulation of a pediatric advisory committee consisting of clinicians from the community serving as local “pediatric champions” and aid in the formulation of revised standards of care for disaster situations, as well as the creation of a “pediatrics desk” to be a permanent fixture in future Emergency Operations Centers, during disaster situations. Individuals interested in participating in the any capacity with this advisory committee should contact the Chapter’s disaster liaison, Dr. Brent Kaziny, at brent.kaziny@hsc.utah.edu.

Early Adventures from the NICU from Margaret Walker, MD

Utah Pediatric History

George Durham, MD, Utah Chapter Senior Representative

Some of us knew Dr. Walker as Margaret Miller, MD. Following undergraduate, medical training, and residency at Duke University, she became a fourth year resident at the University of Utah beginning in July 1972 and was chief resident in pediatrics from January-June 1973. She became the late Dr. Larry Jung’s first University of Utah neonatology fellow from 1973-1975. Dr. J. Michael Clark and I began our PL-1 year in Dr. Jung’s NICU and Dr. Miller was beginning her fellowship at the same time.

Dr. Walker wrote me recently after reading a comment I had made in the Duke Alumni magazine about my efforts to report and record Utah pediatric history. I would like to share her email with the readers of The Growing Times.

“…I know mostly about pediatrics at the U of U (far less about Primary, LDS, and Holy Cross through which I briefly rotated) and going to fetch sick premies for the U’s NICU from the surrounding five-state Intermountain area (80% by ambulance, 20% by fixed wing aircraft; or, rarely, helicopter—one couldn’t ausculate baby’s chest in chopper). After I received an anxious late-afternoon or night transport request from the baby’s out-of-state referring [pediatrician], and if the airport nearest to the baby was equipped only for daytime landings (lacked night lighting), I then had to phone the new baby’s father to instruct him to gather friends and relatives with 4-wheel vehicles and park in a parallel line facing the landing strip and, when they heard our plane’s motor in the sky, turn on all their headlights. I’d say, “If our pilot can’t see the landing strip, he can’t land our plane, and we won’t be able to pick up your baby.” (Our pilots, mostly trained by the military during the VietNam era, were VERY TALENTED, but back then, lacked night goggles!!).”

Growing Times.

Utah Chapter Team Preparing for Pandemic

Brent Kaziny, MD, Utah Chapter Disaster Liaison

In April, the Utah Chapter participated in a 2-day collaborative meeting of the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Centers for Disease Control. Utah was selected as one of ten teams to participate out of 29 state chapter applicants.

The team, lead by Brent Kaziny, MD, Chapter disaster liaison, consisted of Bill Cosgrove, MD, Chapter immunization champion; Bob Jex, RN, MHA, FACHE, Utah Department of Health Specialty Care Program Manager in the Bureau of EMS and Preparedness; and Jennifer Brown, JD, MS, Utah Department of Health Director of the Bureau of Epidemiology (substituting for Melissa Stevens Dimond, from the Utah Department of Health, who could not make the meeting).

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